



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

January 31, 1983

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

TITLE: Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station,  
Allegations Re: Postweld Heat Treatment  
on Piping

SUPPLEMENTAL: DN 50-528

CASE NUMBER: 5-82-006

CONTROL OFFICE: San Francisco STATUS: CLOSED

PERIOD OF INVESTIGATION: June 16 - September 7, 1982

REPORTING INVESTIGATOR: Eugene J. Power  
Eugene J. Power, Investigator  
Office of Investigations, Region V

PARTICIPATING PERSONNEL: Owen C. Shackleton Jr., Director  
Office of Investigations, Region V

Philip V. Joukoff, Investigator  
Office of Investigations, Region V

L. E. Vorderbrueggen, Senior Resident Inspector  
Region V, USNRC

REVIEWED BY: Owen C. Shackleton Jr.  
Owen C. Shackleton Jr., Director  
Office of Investigations, Region V

APPROVED BY: James A. Fitzgerald  
James A. Fitzgerald, Acting Director  
Office of Investigations

## SUMMARY

On May 25, 1982, a former employee of Western Stress, Incorporated, at PVNGS, advised members of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) that he overheard a conversation in April 1981 that Post Weld Heat Treatment (PWHT) thermocouples could be improperly wired, and that he therefore believed the resulting records were falsified.

This NRC investigation involved interview of the alleged, review of a previous Bechtel Power Corporation investigative report on the same allegation conducted in May 1981, detailed interviews of four individuals who had direct knowledge of the PWHT activities during the established time period, and examination of 121 out of a total of 1016 PWHT records for PVNGS Unit 1.

The investigation revealed that there was a conversation among some employees of Western Stress, Incorporated, and an employee of the Bechtel Power Corporation regarding the wiring of thermocouples in parallel or a conversation of a similar nature. Persons interviewed regarding the conversation stated that it was in jest. No instances of PWHT thermocouples being wired in parallel or improperly being wired were discovered nor were indications of incorrect or "falsified" records identified. No indications of post weld heat treatment activities performed which were contrary to NRC rules and regulations or contrary to industry standards were identified during this investigation.